

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 170753

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TPHY, MX

SUBJECT: R/V RESEARCHER CLEARANCE REQUEST

1. THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION VESSEL RESEARCHER (OSS-03), A PUBLIC VESSEL, IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN MEXICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS DURING 8 OCTOBER - 24 NOVEMBER 1976. OBJECTIVES OF THE CRUISE ARE TO DEFINE THE CIRCULATION PATTERN OF THE WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO, DETERMINE THE DIRECTION OF WATER TRANSFER BETWEEN THE EASTERN GULF AND THE WESTERN GULF, AND SAMPLE NUTRIENTS, SALINITY, AND DISSOLVED OXYGEN IN THESE AREAS. A NUMERICAL MODEL OF THE GULF OF MEXICO MAY BE DEVELOPED.

2. RESEARCHER WILL OCCUPY A SERIES OF HYDROGRAPHIC STATIONS ALONG THE PROPOSED TRACK LINE (A COPY WILL BE SENT VIA AIRGRAM). AN STD SYSTEM WILL BE UTILIZED TO DETERMINE THE SALINITY/TEMPERATURE STRUCTURE OF THE WATER COLUMN. WATER SAMPLES WILL BE COLLECTED AT THESE SITES AND ANALYZED WITH AN ONBOARD SALINOMETER AND AUTO-ANALYZER. XBT'S WILL BE LOWERED BETWEEN STD STATIONS.

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3. RECENT SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES SUGGEST THAT THE CIRCULATION IN THE WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO IS SIMILAR TO THE

CIRCULATION OF THE ATLANTIC IN THAT A GYRE DRIVEN BY THE WIND STRESS EXISTS WITH A STRONG BOUNDARY CURRENT ON THE WESTERN SIDE (ANALAGOUS TO THE GULF STREAM). NUMERICAL MODELING RESULTS SUGGEST AN UNDERCURRENT MAY BE PRESENT BENEATH THE BOUNDARY CURRENT.

4. RESEARCHER IS 278 FT LONG, 51 FT WIDE, WITH A DRAFT OF 18 FT AND DISPLACEMENT OF 2772 TONS. VESSEL HAS HF (3 TO 30 MHZ) AM AND SSB VOICE, CW AND RATT CAPABILITY. VHF CHANNEL 16 (156.8 MHZ) AND 2182 KHZ ARE MONITORED 24 HOURS. SHIP'S MASTER IS ROBERT W. FRANKLIN WITH A CREW OF 68. CHIEF SCIENTISTS ARE DR. ROBERT MOLINARI (LEG 1), DR. GEORGE MAUL (LEG 2), AND DR. DAVID BEHRINGER (LEG 3) WITH SCIENTIFIC PARTIES OF 6 TO 8. BERTHS ARE AVAILABLE FOR TWO MEXICAN SCIENTISTS AND ALL DATA RESULTS WILL BE SHARED WITH GOM. A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME IS AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL RESEARCH.

5. A PORT CALL WILL BE MADE AT VERACRUZ FROM 22-26 OCT. FOR PROVISIONING AND CREW TRANSFER. THE SHIP WILL BE OPEN FOR SMALL GROUPS/TOURS WHILE IN VERACRUZ IF REQUESTED.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK CLEARANCE FOR RESEARCHER TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN GOM TERRITORIAL WATERS FOR PERIOD 8 OCT - 24 NOV 1976 AND FOR PORT CALL AT VERACRUZ FROM 22-26 OCT. KISSINGER

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